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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/854,124	05/10/2001	Lewis T. Williams	2300-1490DIV	7417

7590 09/24/2002

Bozicevic, Field & Francis  
Suite 200  
200 Middlefield Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

EXAMINER

UNGAR, SUSAN NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1642	

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No. <b>09/854,124</b>	Applicant(s) <b>Williams et al</b>
Examiner <b>Ungar</b>	Art Unit <b>1642</b>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE one MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 10, 2001

2a)  This action is FINAL. 2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 16-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claims 16-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Claims 16-27 are pending in the application and are currently under prosecution.

**Please Note:** In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is 703-308-4315. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Anthony Caputa, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner at 703-308-3995. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

**Group I.** Claims 16-18 are drawn to detection of a cancerous colon cell comprising assaying the level of expression of SEQ ID NO:6 in a test colon cell compared to a cancerous colon cell classified in Class 435, subclass 6.

**Group II.** Claim 19 is drawn to detection of a cancerous colon cell with low metastatic potential comprising assaying the level of expression of SEQ ID NO:6 in a test colon cell compared to a cancerous colon cell with high metastatic potential classified in Class 435, subclass 6.

**Group III.** Claims 20-22 are drawn to detection of a cancerous colon cell comprising assaying the level of expression of SEQ ID NO:5 in a test colon cell compared to a cancerous colon cell classified in Class 435, subclass 6.

**Group IV.** Claim 23 is drawn to detection of a cancerous colon cell with low metastatic potential comprising assaying the level of expression of SEQ ID NO:5 in a test colon cell compared to a cancerous colon cell with high metastatic potential classified in Class 435, subclass 6.

**Group V.** Claims 24-26 are drawn to detection of a cancerous colon cell comprising assaying the level of expression of SEQ ID NO: 7 in a test colon cell compared to a cancerous colon cell classified in Class 435, subclass 6.

**Group VI.** Claim 27 is drawn to detection of a cancerous colon cell with low metastatic potential comprising assaying the level of expression of SEQ ID NO:7 in a test colon cell compared to a cancerous colon cell with high metastatic potential classified in Class 435, subclass 6.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-VI are materially distinct methods which differ at least in objectives, method steps, reagents and/or dosages and/or schedules used, response variables, and criteria for success.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and/or recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Groups I/III/V are further subject to election of a single disclosed species.

Claims 16, 20, 24 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising materially distinct methods which differ at least in objectives,

method steps, reagents and/or dosages and/or schedules used, response variables, and criteria for success wherein the methods are (a) hybridization (claims 17, 21, 25), (b) PCR (claims 18, 22, 26).

6. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

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9. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Ungar, PhD whose telephone number is (703) 305-2181. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached at (703) 308-3995. The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Effective, February 7, 1998, the Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1642.

  
Susan Ungar  
Primary Patent Examiner  
September 20, 2002